

**HOPE TOWNSHIP  
HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION  
MAY 8, 2023 MINUTES - REORGANIZATION**

Zoom Meeting

The meeting was called to order by Robin Keggan, Secretary at 7:03 pm.

***OPEN PUBLIC MEETINGS ACT:***

Under the provisions of the “Open Public Meetings Act”, adequate notice of this meeting has been provided by publishing notice in the New Jersey Herald and by posting notices in the Hope Post Office and on the Township Bulletin Board.

**ROLL CALL:** Joshua Belverio, Melissa Dibiak, Verity Fox, Maria McDonough and Emily Brown. Absent were: Chris Beatty, Kamil Belverio, Gianfranco DiSalvo and Robert May. Liaison: Mayor Timothy McDonough was present.

Members of the public in attendance: Monica Sobon.

**NOMINATIONS FOR CHAIRPERSON:** Joshua Belverio nominated Emily Brown to remain as Chairperson. Verity Fox seconded the motion. All were in favor. Mrs. Brown accepted the nomination.

**NOMINATIONS FOR VICE-CHAIRPERSON:** Emily Brown nominated Joshua Belverio to remain on a Vice-Chairperson. The nomination was seconded by Verity Fox. All in favor. Joshua Belverio accepted the nomination.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES:** The minutes of the December 12, 2022 meeting have been distributed to the members prior to the meeting. Emily Brown made a motion to approve the minutes with corrections, seconded by Joshua Belverio. Voice vote taken – All in favor.

**APPLICATIONS:**

**23-01 HOPE TOWNSHIP COMMUNITY CENTER, BLOCK 2300, LOT 100 – 5 WALNUT STREET**

Committeeman Urfer made an application to the Historic Preservation Commission for approval to paint the exterior of the building. The Community Center is in the process of renovations, including a Warren County grant for replacement of the windows. The building will be painted Dover White (Sherwin Williams) which closely resembles the color it is currently. The timeline for painting the building has not been determined yet.

Emily Brown made a motion to approve Application No. 23-01, seconded by Maria McDonough. Roll Call Vote – In favor: Joshua Belverio, Melissa Dibiak, Verity Fox, Maria McDonough and Emily Brown.

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS:**

These items will be carried forward on future agendas. The Welcome Wagon was briefly discussed. New items have been collected for the Welcome Wagon by Monica Sobon. In the past, the Committeemen have been visiting new residents to welcome them and bring a welcome package with them. A determination of who delivers those packages moving forward will be made at a

future date. Mayor McDonough noted the Committee has no issue with continuing to welcome the new residents.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

The dates for the remainder of the 2023 meeting year were approved on a motion made by Joshua Belverio and seconded by Maria McDonough. All in favor.

Block Party: This year the Block Party is honoring Lauren and Harry Mount, both of whom passed away last year. Maria McDonough gave an update on the Block Party being held in the village on May 20, 2023 from 12-4 pm. Last year this event was just for the people of the village. However, this year, the event is open to all Hope Township residents. There will be food (everyone can bring a dish), beverages (people may bring their own alcohol) and music (Steve Larena will be playing as will Tim Lassiter). Tim and Maria McDonough will set up the tables and chairs and they are also providing all the paper products. Mayor McDonough will make sure that the streets are closed to traffic as well. Mrs. Brown noted how well put together last year's event was. Elsie Donohue is willing to open the Hope Museum if there is an interest in doing so. Monica Sobon was also present to discuss her role regarding the Block Party. She noted that there is a web page dedicated to this event. Everyone can sign in on that page and notate what they are bringing to the party. Joshua Belverio congratulated Monica on a successful Green Fair. Mrs. Brown will bring information regarding the Moravian Christmas to the party for distribution to Hope residents. She is also going to work on a slide show presentation centered around the historic buildings of Hope so that will be at the ready should we ever need it. Block Party signage will be put up on the sandwich boards.

Maria McDonough also discussed positive reinforcement as it pertains to the village residents. A small thank you note would be nice to send along, for example, to Re/Max Town & Valley for the beautiful flowers they have put out front. She feels by acknowledging things in a positive manner people will be more willing to comply with the HPC and what they are endeavoring to model the Hope Village as. She also noted that she is willing to pay for American flags to replace the soccer flags currently hanging in the Village when the soccer season is over. A brief discussion regarding the trailers parked in the Village was had. Perhaps writing a letter to the resident renting the property and stating that "it would be appreciated if they could remove the trailer from the driveway" is appropriate.

Discussion took place regarding the stone house next to Mr. May's home on Walnut Street. It needs to be worked on. Mrs. Brown will reach out to the homeowner to see if he is interested in being involved with the Block Party. Mrs. McDonough will reach out to Fred Stephens for the same thing. It was also noted that campaign signs need to be taken down in a timely manner.

No correspondence was received by the secretary. No applications are at deadline.

**ADJOURNMENT** There being no further business before the commission, a motion was made by Emily Brown and seconded by Joshua Belverio to adjourn the meeting at 7:47 pm.

Robin L. Keggan, Secretary